

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1 - 26.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [1] 27, wherein said flexible material is a heat settable material and said protector is heat set in [~~the~~] a spiral position such that said inner edge is radially inward of said outer edge along the elongated length of the protector.
3. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [1] 27, wherein said protector has an inner diameter of at least about 0.8 cm.
4. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [1] 27, wherein said protector has an inner diameter of no more than about 2.5 cm.
5. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [1] 27, wherein said protector includes a sufficient width of flexible material that it wraps around itself at least one and one half times.
6. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [1] 27, wherein said protector is formed into a circular spiral shape.
7. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [1] 27, wherein said protector is formed into a triangular spiral shape.

8. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~1~~] 27, wherein said protector is formed into a square spiral shape.
9. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~1~~] 27, wherein said protector weighs less than about 2.5 ounces.
10. (Canceled).
11. (Canceled).
12. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~10~~] 33, wherein said protector has an inner diameter of at least about 0.8 cm.
13. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~10~~] 33, wherein said protector has an inner diameter of no more than about 2.5 cm.
14. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~10~~] 33, wherein said protector includes a sufficient width of flexible material that it wraps around itself at least one and one half times.
15. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~10~~] 33, wherein said protector is formed into a circular spiral shape.
16. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~10~~] 33, wherein said protector weighs less than about 2.5 ounces.
17. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [~~10~~] 33, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane.

18. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [40] 33, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane having a thickness of about 0.1 cm to about 0.2 cm.

19. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [40] 33, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane having a width of about 5 cm to about 20 cm.

20. (Currently amended) A protector as claimed in claim [40] 33, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane having a length of about 35 cm to about 80 cm.

21. - 26. (Canceled).

Please add new claims 27 - 35 as follows.

27. (New) A protector for protecting a protected elongated portion of a rope or webbing, said protector including a protector length along an elongated length of said protector, and said protected elongated portion of the rope or webbing including a protected length that is substantially the same as the protector length, said protector including a flexible abrasion resistant material that comprises:

an inner surface adjacent an inner elongated edge of said protector that contacts said protected elongated portion of the rope or webbing along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing;

an outer abrasion resistant surface adjacent an outer exposed edge of said protector along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing, said outer abrasion resistant surface providing abrasion resistance and protection of the rope or webbing to external abrasive elements; and

an intermediate abrasion resistant surface that is intermediate said inner surface and said outer abrasion resistant surface and is not adjacent said inner surface, said intermediate surface extending along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing, and said intermediate abrasion resistant surface providing abrasion resistance and protection of the rope or webbing in the event that a portion of said intermediate abrasion resistant surface becomes exposed due to movement of a portion of said outer abrasion resistant surface away from the rope or webbing.

28. (New) A protector as claimed in claim 27, wherein said intermediate abrasion resistant surface is located at least one revolution away from said inner surface, and said outer abrasion resistant surface is located at least two revolutions away from said inner surface.

29. (New) A protector as claimed in claim 27, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane having a thickness of about 0.1 cm to about 0.2 cm.

30. (New) A protector as claimed in claim 27, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane having a width of about 5 cm to about 20 cm.

31. (New) A protector as claimed in claim 27, wherein said protector is formed of a urethane having a length of about 35 cm to about 80 cm.

32. (New) A protector as claimed in claim 27, wherein said protector permits the rope or webbing to move relative the protector when said protector is pressed against a frictional surface.

33. (New) A protector for protecting a protected elongated portion of a rope or webbing, said protector including a protector length along an elongated length of said protector and an inner protector rest diameter, and said protected elongated portion of the rope or webbing including a

protected length that is substantially the same as the protector length and an outer diameter that is larger than the inner rest diameter of the protector, said protector including a thin, light weight, heat set, flexible, abrasion resistant material that comprises:

an inner surface adjacent an inner elongated edge of said protector that contacts said protected elongated portion of the rope or webbing along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing;

an outer abrasion resistant surface adjacent an outer exposed edge of said protector along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing, said outer abrasion resistant surface providing abrasion resistance and protection of the rope or webbing to external abrasive elements; and

an intermediate abrasion resistant surface that is intermediate said inner surface and said outer abrasion resistant surface and that is located at least one revolution away from said inner surface, said intermediate abrasion resistant surface extending along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing, said intermediate abrasion resistant surface providing abrasion resistance and protection of the rope or webbing in the event that a portion of said intermediate abrasion resistant surface becomes exposed due to movement of a portion of said outer abrasion resistant surface away from the rope or webbing;

said protector being light enough that the inner radial force applied by the protector against the rope or webbing due to the inner protector rest diameter being smaller than the outer rope or webbing diameter, is sufficiently large to maintain the protector in place on the rope or webbing, yet permits the rope or webbing to move relative the protector when the protector is in contact with an abrasive surface.

34. (New) A method of protecting a protected elongated length of a rope or webbing, said

method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible, abrasion resistant protector including a protector length along an elongated length of said protector, and said protector length being substantially the same as the protected elongated length of the rope or webbing

applying an inner surface adjacent an inner elongated edge of said protector to the protected elongated length of the rope or webbing along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing;

wrapping said protector around the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing such that an outer abrasion resistant surface adjacent an outer exposed edge of said protector becomes exposed along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing, said outer abrasion resistant surface providing abrasion resistance and protection of the rope or webbing to external abrasive elements; and

providing an intermediate abrasion resistant surface intermediate said inner surface and said outer abrasion resistant surface, said intermediate abrasion resistant surface extending along substantially the full length of the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing, said intermediate abrasion resistant surface providing abrasion resistance and protection of the rope or webbing in the event that a portion of said intermediate abrasion resistant surface becomes exposed due to movement of a portion of said outer abrasion resistant surface away from the rope or webbing.

35. (New) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein said step of wrapping the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing includes the step of expanding an inner radius of the protector from a first rest diameter to a second enlarged diameter, said first rest diameter being smaller than a diameter of the rope or webbing.

36. (New) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein said step of wrapping the protected length of the elongated portion of the rope or webbing includes wrapping said protector around the rope or webbing at least one and one half times.